THE
Dan Smoot Report

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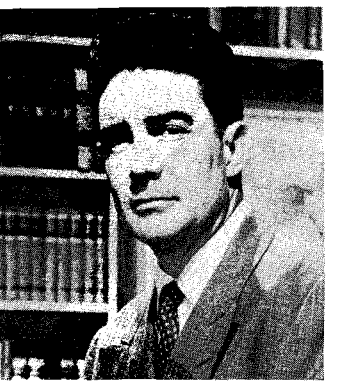

DAN SMOOT

JOHNSON'S LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

In recent *Reports*, we have discussed President Johnson's 1966 poverty war proposals, his foreign aid program, his Demonstration Cities Act, his Community Development District Act. Herein is commentary on other pending legislation.

SECONDARY BOYCOTTS and MINIMUM WAGE: HR 10027 (introduced in 1965) would reverse a 1951 Supreme Court ruling which held that a striking union may not picket a construction site, if the picketing keeps workers in another non-striking union off the job.

HR 10518 (introduced in 1965) would require non-farm employers to pay a minimum wage of $1.60 an hour, instead of the present $1.25, and would establish a $1.00-an-hour minimum for farm workers. This would ruin many businesses and farmers who now give employment to unskilled workers — but who could not survive if forced to pay unrealistic federal minimum wages.[1] If passed, the bill would do great damage to our economy.

Having failed to get the right-to-work section of the Taft Hartley Act repealed, union bosses are lobbying with increased aggressiveness for these two bills dealing with secondary boycotts and mimimum wages. Constitutional conservatives should meet the challenge, and exert more pressures against the bills than union bosses can exert for them.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION: The present federal-state Unemployment Compensation program (created by the Social Security Act of 1935) has enabled federal agencies to exert dictatorial powers over state governments, in violation of the U. S. Constitution. HR 8282 (introduced in 1965) would amend the Unemployment Compensation Statutes and make matters worse. It would give the federal government *complete* control over the unemployment compensation program; would invite a proliferation of fraudulent claims for compensation; would extend the period of unemployment benefits to a total of 52 weeks, thus encouraging idleness at taxpayers' expense.

THE DAN SMOOT REPORT is published weekly by The Dan Smoot Report, Inc., Box 9538, Dallas, Texas 75214 (office at 6441 Gaston Ave.). Subscriptions: $18.00 for 2 years; $10.00, 1 year; $6.00, 6 months; first class, $12.50 a year; airmail, $14.50. Dan Smoot was born in Missouri, reared in Texas. With BA and MA degrees from SMU (1938 and 1940), he joined the Harvard faculty (1941) as a Teaching Fellow, doing graduate work in American civilization. From 1942 to 1951, he was an FBI agent; from 1951 to 1955, a commentator on national radio and television. In 1955, he started his present independent, free-enterprise business: publishing this REPORT and abbreviating it each week for radio and TV broadcasts available for commercial sponsorship by business firms.

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Early in March, 1966, it was reported that the House Ways and Means Committee was rewriting HR 8282 (making it even more offensive to constitutional principles than before) and that the new bill would be introduced to the House under a closed rule prohibiting floor amendments or extensive debate.[2]

As this goes to press, the new version of HR 8282 has not yet been presented. Conservatives should not wait, however. They should flood Congress *now* with pleas not to pass *any amendments* to the unemployment compensation statutes this year.

Being unconstitutional, the federal unemployment compensation program should be abolished. That is too much to expect this year; but, if we conservatives act now, we can prevent Congress from making matters worse.

BIRTH CONTROL: On April 1, 1965, U. S. Senator Ernest Gruening introduced S 1676, to establish an Office of Population Problems, which would coordinate and disseminate birth control information. Still pending, the bill is considered an administration measure this year.

Services which S 1676 would provide are already available elsewhere. Even if they were needed, the federal government has no constitutional authority to provide them. Moreover, Gruening's bill would open the gates to future federal activities fraught with danger.

In January, 1966, a symposium on population problems was held at San Francisco. Some participants recommended a federal law to limit size of families, enforcement to be achieved, in part, by a baby tax — penalizing a family for having babies.[3] Some experts say controls are most needed not on the poor, but on upper and middle income couples, allegedly the main causers of our population explosion, who deliberately have large families because they love children and can afford them. These experts want something besides a baby tax, because a baby tax would inhibit the poor, not the wealthy.[4]

The tenor of these suggestions foretells disastrous consequences of permitting the federal government to meddle in birth control.

Population problems should be handled by education and voluntary action. If needed, birth-control laws could be enacted and enforced at local and state levels. The federal government, having no constitutional authority in the field, should be kept out of it entirely.

FIREARMS: The Dodd bills (S 1591 and S 1592) and the Murphy bills (HR 6628 and HR 6629) would restrict sale and possession of firearms and ammunition. The bills (pending from last year) are intended to reduce the use of firearms in acts of crime, but would not, of course, have that effect, since criminals do not obey laws. The bills would merely violate the constitutionally-guaranteed right of law-abiding citizens to possess firearms. They should be defeated.[5]

D. C. HOME RULE: Efforts of liberal politicians to give home rule to the District of Columbia have been persistent since negroes became the majority group in Washington. *Home Rule for the District* is a bid for political support from negroes.

But Home Rule for the District is unconstitutional. The Constitution requires Congress to govern the District. S 1118 (passed by the Senate in 1965, rejected by the House) is high on Johnson's list of requested legislation for 1966. It would permit partisan municipal elections in the District; would enable the District to get funds automatically from the U. S. Treasury without congressional authorization or control; would enfranchise 18-year-old persons; would permit the election of a non-voting delegate from the District to the House; would waive provisions of the Hatch Act, thus permitting government employees to participate actively in partisan politics. The bill should be defeated — and will be if Congress gets enough mail from back home.

TRADE WITH COMMUNISTS: President Johnson has asked Congress to ease restrictions on trade with Soviet-bloc nations in Europe. This would strengthen communist control in those nations, and enable them to give even more help to our communist enemies in Vietnam. Congress should refuse.

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TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT: President Johnson has asked Congress to authorize a Department of Transportation. This would be another step toward absolute federal control over all transportation facilities in the United States. Congress is certain to grant the President's request, unless there is a storm of public protest.

WATER POLLUTION: In 1948, Congress passed the water Pollution Control Act, providing funds for sewage treatment. In 1956, the funds were increased. In 1961, Congress again increased the funds, and authorized a research program for a study of the over-all problem of water pollution. In 1965, Congress authorized $20,000,000 in matching grants to states for water pollution control during a three-year period, giving the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare authority to establish water quality standards. In 1966, President Johnson requested a Clean Rivers Demonstration Program which would give federal officials and federal courts vast powers to make and enforce rules for use of practically every body of water within the United States. This is a classic example of how government programs grow — from research and study, to subsidies, to outright control.

We do need water pollution control, but the Constitution does not authorize the federal government to provide it. Through private effort, and government action at state and local levels, we could get far better pollution control than the federal government will ever provide. It may be argued that it is easier to get one federal program than to establish an adequate number of local, state, and private programs. It would also be "easier" for us to abandon our constitutional system entirely and surrender all our liberties, accepting the promises of federal officials to take care of us.

The argument of ease, however, appeals only to those too lazy, too apathetic, too cowardly to struggle for their own freedom. Congress should reject the Clean Rivers Demonstration Program. The people should make the federal government withdraw from this field — and should compel industry, and local and state governments, to do what is necessary for the protection of water resources.

FOUR-YEAR HOUSE TERM: President Johnson urges a constitutional amendment to authorize four-year terms for members of the House of Representatives, their terms to coincide with the President's term of office. This proposal is not unrelated to Johnson's request for a five-year foreign-aid authorization: it is a sly effort to undermine the independence of the House, to guarantee its subservience to the President.

With only two exceptions in the past 100 years, a House of Representatives elected in a presidential election year has been an "administration" House — a majority of whose members ran on the party ticket with the President, politically pledged to support his program. That is the kind of House the President wants to fix upon the nation permanently — by eliminating off-year Congressional elections which, not overshadowed and dominated by the presidential contest, give the people their best chance to elect a Congress politically independent of the President, responsible to the people.

Some conservatives want a four-year House term that does not coincide with the presidential term. This would keep the House and the President from being elected at the same time; but it would do more harm than good, because a politician who must solicit votes every two years will stay closer to the people than one who faces them less often. Note the fact that the present House, though a toady to the President, still more nearly reflects the conservatism of the people than the Senate, whose members are elected for six years.

The Constitution prescribes two-year terms, to keep the House of Representatives close to the people it represents. *We should make no change* in the system.

Explanation

On February 28, 1966 — after 554 weeks of continuous publication — this *Report* was reduced

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from 8 pages to 4. I have had only one complaint, but a great many inquiries. Most of the inquiries express concern, not because I reduced the size of the *Report*, but because the reduction may indicate that I am in financial straits.

I am pinched. My work is conducted as a free-enterprise business, which must survive or perish in accordance with the decision of people to buy or not to buy. And business has been bad since the early part of 1965, when the Johnson steamroller in Washington began to mash all hope out of many conservatives, leaving them in despair, feeling there is no longer any use to fight for a restoration of our free Republic.

Meanwhile, costs have been rising sharply. Since I published the first issue of this *Report* on June 29, 1955, all costs (for paper, typesetting, printing, postage, labor, research and clerical staff) have skyrocketed. During those years, many major publications (with advertising revenue, which this *Report* does not have) have been squeezed out of business. Others have increased their subscription prices. I have never raised prices; but I was forced to make one of three choices: (1) increase my prices to customers; (2) lower the quality of the *Report* by using less expensive paper and cheaper production techniques, and by reducing expenditures for research; (3) reduce the size of the *Report* to effect savings in paper, postage, and typesetting.

I chose the latter course, pledging all my energies to make the *Report* better, though shorter, hoping to pack as much into 4 pages as I had put in 8, by accepting the heavy discipline of brevity — not leaving out vital information but working harder to present it more concisely.

Subscribers who buy reprints of this *Report* for distribution to others sustain my business. Without you, I would have no means of getting new subscribers; without new subscribers, my business would go broke. I had this in mind when I reduced the size of the *Report*. The change enabled me to give sharp reductions in reprint prices — thus enabling you to buy and distribute more reprints for less money. (Please note, however, that the reduced reprint prices for 4-page *Reports* do not apply for the old 8-page *Reports* which many are still ordering.)

This *Report* is not about to fold up or go under; but I do need your help to increase circulation. You can help by giving a copy of the *Report* to someone else, suggesting that he subscribe; by telling others about the *Report*; by giving subscriptions to friends, employees, business associates, neighbors, relatives; by contributing to our Congressional Fund (gifts not tax exempt) which makes it possible for me to put a copy of this *Report* on the desk of every U. S. Representative and Senator every week.

For the help you have already given me and for your special concern about my work, I am profoundly grateful. And I thank God that there are Americans like you who are willing to sacrifice and struggle for the cause of liberty.

FOOTNOTES

(1) "What Happens After Minimum Wage Goes Up," *U.S. News & World Report*, April 4, 1966, pp. 73-4

(2) "A Disastrous Bill," *The Dallas Morning News*, March 11, 1966, p. 2D

(3) *U.S. News & World Report*, January 31, 1966, p. 11

(4) *Three Hundred Million Americans Would Be Wrong*, by David E. Lilienthal, *Congressional Record*, January 14, 1966, pp. 238-40 (daily)

(5) For additional information on the Dodd-Murphy bills and firearms laws, see this *Report*, "Deliver Up Our Arms," April 26, 1965; price 25c each, 6 for $1.00.

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